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Approved For Release 2003/07/31 : CIA-RDP80R01443R000200200003-6

NSC BRIEFING

25 March 1954

MILITARY SITUATION AT DIEN BIEN PHU

- I. Viet Minh preparing assault.
 - A. Moving trenches closer.
 - B. Some within 300 meters.
- II. French making air, some ground attacks.
 - A. 1,000 pound bombs on trenches.
 - B. But enemy repairs, digs new ones.
 - C. French patrolling between strongpoints.
 - 1. Destroyed one company on
22nd north of Isabelle.
- III. Defenses tightened in center.
 - A. Consolidation "Anne Marie" with "Huguette".
 - B. ~~Salvoes~~ ^{VIA} ~~Salvoes~~ upset detailed enemy planning.

NSA review completed

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C. About 7,000 miles barbed wire
AT DIEN BIEN PHU
strung *A*-- distance from Saigon
to Paris.

IV. French think enemy may hit "Isabelle"
first, then center.

A. Division 316, with element 304,
to hit south, *FRENCH THINK*
BY FRENCH TO
B. Division 308 expected attack *A*
center.

V. Navarre more optimistic.

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VI. On other hand, heavy Chinese shipments
via Lai Chau.

OPENED IN JANUARY

A. New route from Ban Leng takes *A*
strain off supply lines from east.
B. French say have killed 1,200 on
road last week.

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C. Press reports of starving enemy

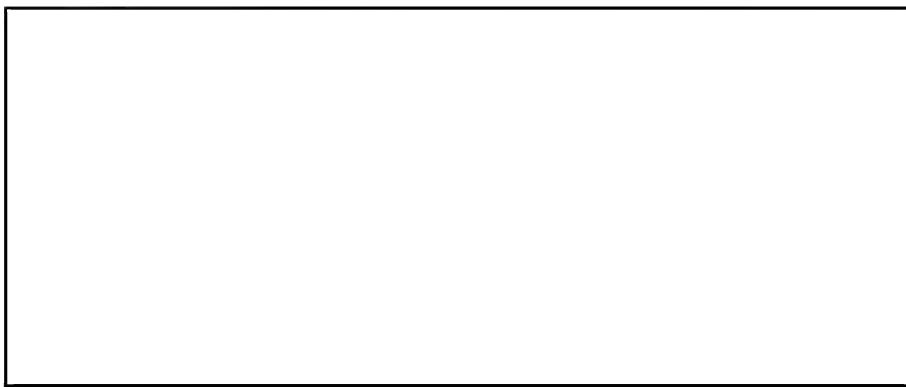
conflict with estimated 60 days

supplies, which we believe more
likely.

VII. Evacuation of French wounded hampered.

A. About 200 flown out; probably

equal number remains. About
Total
1400 losses.



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On 23 March Lt. Gambiez was killed
when helicopter evacuating him was hit and
crashed. He had been slightly wounded in the
knee the day before. He was only son of Gen.
Gambiez, Navarre's Chief of Staff

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